SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

BATMAN™

CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK THREE

DC BLACK LABEL

BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK THREE

WHUD

WHUD

WHUD

Sean Murphy: Script, Art, Covers
Matt Hollingsworth: Colors & Cover Colors
AndWorld Design: Letters

BATMAN
CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK THREE

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger

THERE!

...COUGH COUGH...

IS HE OKAY?

I GOT HIM-- GET US OUT OF HERE!

SPLASH

SPLOOSH

SPLASH

VROOOOOO

SORRY TO BLOW YOUR COVER, BRUCE...

...BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO RESCUE YOU WITHOUT TELLING THEM.

WOK WOK WOK

GTO

GOTHAM TERROR OPRESSION

BRUCE WAYNE?

JESUS. YA GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.

WOK WOK WOK

"I PLANNED ON TELLING THE REST OF YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT BATMAN..."

...BUT NOT LIKE THIS.

I KNOW. BELIEVE ME, ***I KNOW.***

BUT THIS IS A GOOD THING--IF WE'RE GOING TO TRACK THIS GUY DOWN, WE'LL NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING HE AND THE JOKER KNOW.

GTO

I ONLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM--STRANGE MASK, RED CLOAK, BIG SWORD.

HE USED HATTER TO ***HACK INTO THE SECURITY SYSTEM,*** THEN HE TURNED THE ENTIRE BATCAVE ***AGAINST ME.*** I WAS ABLE TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE BATMOBILE RIGHT BEFORE HE ***DETONATED THE ENTIRE MANSION.***

HOW DID HE FIND YOU?

I THINK HE WAS SENT BY A WOMAN NAMED ***RUTH.***

WHO?

SHE WALKED INTO MY OFFICE AT WAYNETECH THE OTHER DAY--SAID THAT SHE WAS WORKING WITH THE JOKER, AND THAT SHE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME.

BLACKMAIL?

SOME BIG BALLS ON HER.

SHE REPRESENTED THE ELITES, AND WANTED ME TO COOPERATE BY STOPPING THE ***NAPIER INITIATIVE.***

CPD

AND YOU LET HER WALK RIGHT OUT OF YOUR OFFICE?

I HAD TO--SHE KNEW ABOUT ***YOU AND BARBARA.*** I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT ***SOMEONE LIKE THAT*** WAS CAPABLE OF.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND--IF THEY KNOW WHO YOU ARE, THEN WHY WOULD THEY BOTHER EXPOSING ***ME?***

BECAUSE WITHOUT ME, THEY CAN'T MAKE MONEY ON THE BATMAN DEVASTATION FUND.

THEY NEED BATMAN...

OR A VERSION OF BATMAN WHO WILL COOPERATE WITH THEM...

...ONE WITH A RED CAPE AND A BIG SWORD.

JUST WHAT GOTHAM NEEDS, ANOTHER ***COLORFUL WACKO.***

GTO

NO, IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME--HE'S NOT JUST ANOTHER SUPER-CRIMINAL...

...THE JOKER PICKED THIS MAN ***FOR A REASON.***

THE JOURNAL AND THE MEDALLION FROM JOKER'S CELL?

IT'S THE SYMBOL OF AN ANCIENT CULT. ***THE ORDER OF ST. DUMAS.*** THE MAN IN THE CLOAK WAS WEARING ***THE SAME THING.***

EDMOND. OH, GREAT--ANOTHER WAYNE.

EDMOND WAS THE ***FIRST WAYNE*** IN GOTHAM--HE CAME HERE TO CLAIM HIS LAND FROM THE CRIMINALS WHO'D STOLEN IT.

ONE ASSHOLE LEADING A WAR ON CRIME? SOUNDS FAMILIAR.

EDMOND WASN'T ALONE. HE HAD A PARTNER NAMED ***BAKKAR*** WHO WORE THIS SYMBOL. EDMOND WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE BAKKAR ***HALF HIS LAND*** IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS HELP.

SO THE GUY WHO BLEW UP YOUR HOUSE IS A DESCENDANT OF BAKKAR?

GTO

OR JOKER ***CONVINCED*** HIM HE IS.

GORDON'S ON THE PHONE--HE'S READY TO ***INTERROGATE THE JOKER.***

I'LL MEET YOU THERE.

BRUCE, ***YOU JUST LOST YOUR HOME...***

...SHOULDN'T YOU TAKE SOME TIME OFF? SO YOU DON'T--

TURN INTO A GODDAMN PSYCHO AND GO OFF THE DEEP END ***LIKE LAST YEAR.***

GTO

JOKER THINKS HE HAS ***ALL THE CARDS.***

THE ONLY WAY TO THROW HIM OFF IS TO ***SURPRISE*** HIM.

IF YOU NEED A SCREWDRIVER TO BUILD THIS THING, THEN THEY SHOULD PUT ONE IN THE ***GODDAMN BOX!***

HERE.

CREEPIEST. HANDYMAN. EVER.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT YOU OVER THE LAST YEAR-- HOW YOU TURNED THE CITY ***AGAINST ME.*** YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST PART ABOUT IT WAS?

GETTING BEATEN BY A GIRL?

IT WAS ***LOSING MY FAMILY.***

YOU'RE NOT A FAMILY--YOU'RE A BUNCH OF WEIRDOS IN TIGHTS.

WHEN YOU'RE AN ***ORPHAN,*** YOU MAKE FAMILY WHEREVER YOU CAN FIND IT.

OH...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE AN ORPHAN.

NO OFFENSE, BUT THAT KINDA EXPLAINS ***A LOT.***

YOU HAVE PLENTY TO LOOK FORWARD TO, HARLEY. AND I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO HAVE WHAT YOU DO--

...THE CHANCE TO HAVE A REAL FAMILY?

PANT PANT PANT

YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO TRICK ME INTO HELPING YOU GET JACK NAPIER BACK.

PANT PANT WHIMPER

IT'S NOT A TRICK.

LIAR.

YOU'D KNOW IF I WAS LYING TO YOU.

EVEN IF WE GOT HIM BACK, WHO'S TO SAY HE'LL STAY THAT WAY? I'M ABOUT TO BE A MOM. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT ME ANYMORE--

I WON'T LET HIM HURT YOU, HARLEY. I PROMISE.

I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME.

...

BWAHAHA!

GTO
GOTHAM TERRORIST OPPRESSION

WELL DONE, BATMAN. SORRY I MISSED THE BBQ.

BWAHAHAHA!

WHO IS HE?

HE'S MY *KNIGHT!*

THE ELITES ARE MY *PAWNS,* AND RUTH IS MY *QUEEN!* CHECK, YOUR MOVE!

THIS IS YOUR BIG PLAN--GET SOME PYROMANIAC TO REPLACE ME?

PATIENCE, BATSY--THIS IS JUST THE *SETUP.* THERE'S *A LOT* YOU DON'T KNOW.

I KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK I DO.

PRETTY SURE YOU DON'T--

FLIP

LAFAYETTE ARKHAM.

...

NAPIER

THAT'S RIGHT, WE FOUND THE BODY. THANKS TO THE HELP OF *JACK NAPIER.*

NAPIER?

HE TOLD ME YOU "DISCOVERED THE JOKER THERE."

ALL THESE YEARS I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ***WORST VILLAIN THIS CITY HAD EVER SEEN.***

BUT YOU'RE JUST A ***CHEAP KNOCKOFF.***

RAAAAAARRRR!

...

WELL, I SUPPOSE A ***GREAT PERFORMER*** SHOULDN'T BE ASHAMED TO ADMIT HIS ***INFLUENCES.*** NAPIER ACCIDENTALLY FOUND LAFFY WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO DIG OUT OF HIS CELL...

"...HE ALSO FOUND ALL OF HIS SECRETS.

"AND THAT'S WHEN ***THE JOKER*** WAS CREATED.

"LAFFY TOLD HIM A JOKE WRITTEN IN BLOOD--THE ***GREATEST JOKE IN ALL OF GOTHAM.*** A JOKE ONLY ***I KNOW...***

"...THE TRUTH ABOUT ***THE WAYNE FAMILY.***

"AND I'VE BEEN LAUGHING EVER SINCE, JUST WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO BEGIN MY ***GRAND FINALE...***"

...THE DAY WHEN I'D FINALLY GET TO *SHARE THE JOKE WITH THE ENTIRE CITY!*

HAHAHAHAHA!

WHAT DID THE BLOOD MESSAGE SAY?

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE, BATS!

BELIEVE ME, GOTHAM IS *DROWNING IN SECRETS.*

IF JOKER WON'T COOPERATE, I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WILL...

OH, THIS'LL BE GOOD.

JACK, I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE.

I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU.

GTO

OH LORD--CAN'T YOU TAKE A HINT? *IT'S OVER!*

I TELL YOU, DAMAGED GIRLS MIGHT BE GREAT IN THE SACK, BUT THEY'RE ALWAYS SO CLINGY!

THE MEDS CAN'T HELP YOU ANYMORE, JACK--THEY'RE TOO DANGEROUS.

SO I NEED YOU TO DO THIS ON YOUR OWN. *I NEED YOU TO FIGHT.*

SURE, WE HAD SOME GOOD TIMES. BUT LET'S FACE IT--YOU'RE WORTHLESS. WEAK. *UNLOVABLE.*

VICTIM-HOOD IS YOUR SUPERPOWER.

YOU SON OF A--

STOP.

HE'S CALLED ME WORSE.

I GOT THIS.

HAHAHEHEHE...

OOOOO, THAT'S QUITE A BUMP, *PUDDIN'!* NOW THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING.

I'M GUESSING... *TWINS?*

THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE? *CHILD SUPPORT?*

I SUPPOSE I COULD SPARE A FEW BUCKS. I MEAN, ONE OF THOSE BRATS IS *BASICALLY MINE...*

...BUT I'LL HAVE TO ABORT *NAPIER'S.*

BATMAN, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOUR UTILITY BELT HAS A *COAT HANGER?*

HEHEHEEHEHE

YOU SON OF A--

SORRY I WASN'T ABLE TO HELP.

NOT EVEN THE ***SHOCK OF BEING A FATHER*** WAS ENOUGH TO REACH HIM. I GUESS MAYBE JACK'S GONE FOR GOOD.

I'M NOT SO SURE YET.

YOU DID WELL--IT TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE TO FACE HIM AGAIN.

KINDA SAD SEEING EVERYONE LEAVE--IN A MESSED-UP WAY, THIS PLACE WAS LIKE A ***SECOND HOME.***

IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY. THE ELITES PERMEATED ARKHAM, SO WE'RE MOVING THEM TO ANOTHER FACILITY WHILE WE INVESTIGATE.

GCPD

PD

ARRRGG--

YOU OKAY?

YEAH, JUST A FALSE ALARM. MORE COMMON WITH TWINS, I GUESS.

SO WAS THAT ALL YOU NEEDED ME FOR? OR WAS THERE ANOTHER REASON YOU MADE ME DRAG MY FAT ASS ALL THE WAY OUT OF ***BACKPORT?***

YOU UP FOR A WALK?

LEAD THE WAY, ***BAE.***

MAN--WHO'D HAVE THUNK THIS PLACE WOULD BE EVEN CREEPIER ***WITHOUT*** THE MURDERERS AND PSYCHOPATHS!

NOW THAT WE'RE ALONE, LET'S GO BACK TO THE PART ABOUT WHY YOU DECIDED TO TELL ME YOU ARE REALLY A HANDSOME BILLIONAIRE.

JOKER ALREADY KNEW--I FIGURED YOU DID AS WELL.

SORRY, BUT I CALL BULLSHIT--I MIGHT NOT KNOW BRUCE WAYNE, BUT I KNOW YOU. AND YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?

I THINK YOU LIKE ME!

I'D LIKE YOU TO GET YOUR HEAD EXAMINED...

COME ON--ADMIT IT! WE HAD A ROCKY START, BUT OVER THE YEARS YOU AND I HAVE BECOME BUDDIES!

REMEMBER THAT DRESS YOU BOUGHT ME?

THE ONE YOU WON'T LET ME FORGET ABOUT?

IT FIT PERFECTLY. WHICH MEANS YOU EVEN KNEW MY BRA SIZE!

I'M A DETECTIVE.

HAHA, SURE. THAT'S IT.

CRIME SCENE DO NO

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU FOUND OL' LAFFY, HUH?

WHO DO YOU THINK KILLED HIM?

THERE WERE TWO MEN--ONE WAS A PRIEST NAMED BAKKAR.

AND THE OTHER WAS EDMOND WAYNE.

OOOOOH, SO THIS IS A FAMILY MATTER.

AND IT GOES BACK TO THE ORIGINAL WAYNE AND THE ORIGINAL JOKER?

PRETTY EPIC--I CAN SEE WHY JOKER'S GEEKING OUT OVER THIS.

LAFAYETTE SURVIVED THE FALL.

BUT BEFORE HE DIED, HE MANAGED TO WRITE A MESSAGE ON THE WALL IN HIS OWN BLOOD.

AND THE JOKER ERASED IT--SO THE ***MYSTERY DEEPENS!***

HE EVER MENTION ANY OF THIS?

SORRY, NOT A WORD.

HE'S SPENT YEARS PREPARING THIS ***"GRAND FINALE."*** AND ALL THE TIME YOU WERE WITH HIM, HE ***NEVER SAID A WORD?***

I'M JUST AS DISAPPOINTED AS YOU ARE.

THE MAN WHO BLEW UP YOUR HOUSE--HE MENTIONED CAIN AND ABEL?

RIGHT.

THIS MIGHT BE HARD FOR YOU TO ACCEPT, BUT YOU EVER CONSIDER THAT MAYBE EDMOND ***KILLED BAKKAR?***

I MEAN, HOW ELSE WOULD THE MEDALLION GET DOWN HERE?

I THOUGHT IT FELL OFF DURING THE STRUGGLE...

YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE'S ANOTHER BODY.

"I'VE DECIDED TO STEP DOWN AS ***COMMISSIONER...***"

...I DON'T WANT TO HURT THE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY BAD P.R. OVER THIS BARBARA THING.

SO I TALKED IT OVER WITH THE SUITS, AND WE ALL AGREE THAT THE NEW COMMISSIONER ***SHOULD BE YOU.***

BUT... WHAT ABOUT ***BULLOCK?*** OR A HUNDRED OTHER PEOPLE THAT ARE MORE QUALIFIED?

TITLE AIN'T FOR ME, AND YOU KNOW IT, KID.

BESIDES, ABOUT TIME WE HAD A LADY AT THE HELM.

EXACTLY. PUT YOUR GLASSES UP--LET'S TOAST TO MONTOYA.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

IS THAT WHY I'M GETTING THE JOB, BECAUSE OF OPTICS? OR BECAUSE OF SOME ***EQUAL OPPORTUNITY*** BULLSHIT?

YOU KNOW I DON'T PLAY THOSE GAMES, MONTOYA!

I'M PROMOTING YOU BECAUSE ***YOU'RE THE BEST.*** AND EVERYONE HERE KNOWS THAT.

THAT'S RIGHT--***I'D BE PROUD*** TO SERVE UNDER YOU.

SAME.

AND IF YOU FAIL, YOU CAN ALWAYS FALL BACK INTO A SECONDARY CAREER, PERFECT FOR A ***PUERTO RICAN LESBIAN...***

HERE IT COMES.

...OPEN A FOOD TRUCK CALLED THE ***PINK TACO!***

SPLOOSH

HAHAHA!

YOU'RE AN ASSHOLE, BULLOCK.

YEAH, BUT YOU STILL LOVE ME.

I'VE GOT TO WORK ON ANOTHER SPEECH FOR TOMORROW.

DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE, ***COMMIS-SIONER.***

FLICK

POLICE

...

OH--I WAS HOPING TO RUN INTO YOU, BATMAN.

LISTEN--SORRY I BLEW UP AT YOU OVER BARBARA. IT'S JUST THAT...***SHE'S ALL I HAVE.***

GUESS I WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT IT WASN'T ***HER*** DECISION TO BECOME BATGIRL--THAT ***IT WAS YOURS.***

BUT I KNOW MY DAUGHTER BETTER THAN THAT. SHE'S LIKE ME--***NO ONE*** CAN FORCE HER TO DO ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T WANT TO.

AND I KNOW ***YOU*** BETTER THAN THAT--YOU PROBABLY TRIED TO TALK HER OUT OF IT.

JUST PROMISE ME NO MORE SECRETS.

DEAL?

DEAL.

LOOKS LIKE A COMPLETE SKELETON.

SOME TRAUMA TO THE KNEES, PROBABLY FROM WHEN HE HIT THE GROUND.

SURPRISED THEY MISSED THIS DURING LAFFY'S EXCAVATION.

AARRRGGH!

PLEASE, GOD--THIS IS ***NOT HAPPENING NOW--***

CONTRACTIONS? I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS A FALSE ALARM--

WELL I WAS WRONG!

COME ON, LET'S--

SHOVE THE CHUNKY BLONDE THROUGH A TINY PASSAGEWAY? ***NO THANKS!***

WE'RE DOING IT HERE!

TELL ME YA GOT ***BAT-STRENGTH PAINKILLERS*** IN YOUR BELT!

IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA. WE DON'T KNOW HOW SAFE--

GIMME THE DRUGS!

HARLEY, TRY TO RELAX--

NOW!

OR I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL MAKE YOU FIGHT A PREGNANT WOMAN!

WHUD

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG BANG BANG

JIM!

OH MY GOD.

TELL BARBARA I LOVE HER.

AND I COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD.

BRATTATATATA

BRAAATATATATAT

PING
BANG
BANG
BANG
PING
PING

BRAATATATATAT
TING
TING
TING

"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

-:COUGH, COUGH...:-

...WHO ARE YOU?

TELL THE DEVIL
AZRAEL
SENT YOU.

THUCK

BRATTATATATA

AH!

BLAM

WHUD

AARRGH!

CRASH

NEXT ISSUE:

Black-and-white art for BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT #4 by Sean Murphy

BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT 4.12

Sean Murphy · 12.22.19

BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT 415

3.1.19

BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT 4.17

3.6.19

BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT 4.19

SEAN MURPHY 3.11.19

GORDON

Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

DC BLACK LABEL

"Cinematic and graphic."
—A.V. Club

"Murphy was truly born to draw Batman."
—IGN

"A breakout hit."
—SyFy Wire

"Holy cow do you get your money's worth."
—Nerdist

A graphic novel collection of the best-selling limited series

TM & © DC

DC
BLACK
LABEL

MARK DOYLE	EXECUTIVE EDITOR, VERTIGO & BLACK LABEL
MAGGIE HOWELL	ASSISTANT EDITOR
LOUIS PRANDI	DESIGN
BOB HARRAS	SENIOR VP – EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, DC COMICS
DAN DIDIO	PUBLISHER
JIM LEE	PUBLISHER & CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
BOBBIE CHASE	VP – NEW PUBLISHING INITIATIVES & TALENT DEVELOPMENT
DON FALLETTI	VP – MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS & WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT
LAWRENCE GANEM	VP – TALENT SERVICES
ALISON GILL	SENIOR VP – MANUFACTURING & OPERATIONS
HANK KANALZ	SENIOR VP – PUBLISHING STRATEGY & SUPPORT SERVICES
DAN MIRON	VP – PUBLISHING OPERATIONS
NICK J. NAPOLITANO	VP – MANUFACTURING ADMINISTRATION & DESIGN
NANCY SPEARS	VP – SALES
MICHELE R. WELLS	VP & EXECUTIVE EDITOR, YOUNG READER

BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT 3. NOVEMBER, 2019. PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY DC COMICS, 2900 W. ALAMEDA AVENUE, BURBANK, CA 91505. CST № IS R125921072.

COPYRIGHT © 2019 DC COMICS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ALL CHARACTERS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE, THE DISTINCTIVE LIKENESSES THEREOF, AND RELATED ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF DC COMICS. THE STORIES, CHARACTERS, AND INCIDENTS MENTIONED IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL. DC COMICS DOES NOT READ OR ACCEPT UNSOLICITED SUBMISSIONS OF IDEAS, STORIES, OR ARTWORK. FOR ADVERTISING AND CUSTOM PUBLISHING CONTACT DCCOMICSADVERTISING@DCCOMICS.COM. FOR DETAILS ON DC COMICS RATINGS, VISIT DCCOMICS.COM/GO/RATINGS.

A CURSE, A BIRTHRIGHT,
AND CENTURIES OF LIES...

THE JOKER IS BACK WITH
A DEVASTATING SECRET
TO SHAKE BATMAN AND
GOTHAM TO THE CORE!

DCCOMICS.COM

The Last Kryptonian-DCP